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January 3, 2000

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1471
Rockville, MD
20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

The use of antibiotics as growth-promoters in livestock is very dangerous for the health of our citizens. Many of these antibiotics provide selection pressure for proliferation of antibiotic-resistant strains that can then infect humans or pass the resistance genes to bacteria that can do so. It took several years for the medical community to recognize that the overuse of antibiotics for minor, as well as major, illnesses was leading to a whole new microbial world of antibiotic-resistant (often multiply-resistant) strains. We are still under pressure from these excesses.

We urge the FDA to follow the lead of European nations in banning or restricting the use of growth-promoting antibiotics for livestock in the United States. They have obtained the same quality and quantity of livestock by improving the living conditions of the animals.

Sincerely,

Wilma Kennell

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David Kennell

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